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My Brother Killed the Dragon in the Shed

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My brother killed the dragon in the shed

Queen's Quarterly, 2006, 113, 4

my brother killed the dragon in the shed with
a rolled cardboard insert from a carpet
that was a lance

I waited, unafraid
on the big step,
knowing he could never lose

the world could never
be so big

One September he went off to war
in the high
school down the road

and I waited at the top of the hill
after kindergarten every noon
to catch sight of his slow horsemanship. He
always held the reins too loose and was jostled side-to-side
when he spied me

And I waited to shower his return
with joy and although he was married to visions of the future
he looked down on me like I was the
king of a small yard that would never not be important

ANDRE NARBONNE



Saint George and the Dragon by Paolo Uccello. Public domain image.